

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) ~~A motorized towing device~~ A towing device for providing assistive motive power to an operator while walking, said towing device comprising:

a pair of wheels;

a chassis housing at least one motor for causing the rotation of said wheels about an axis to move the chassis over a surface;

a controller for controlling operation of said motor and thereby controlling movement of the chassis over the surface;

a steering column connected to said chassis for steering said towing device;

a quick release attachment mechanism on said chassis for cooperating with a corresponding attachment mechanism of an associated object for towing, the quick release attachment mechanism operating about an axis of rotation of said wheels to permit rotational movement of said motorized towing device relative to said object, about said axis.

2. (Previously Presented) The motorized towing device according to claim 1, wherein said chassis houses a pair of motors, each of said motors connected to an axle upon which said wheels are mounted.

3. (Previously Presented) The motorized towing device according to claim 2, wherein each of said motors is a reversible direct current variable speed electric motor.

4. (Previously Presented) The motorized towing device according to claim 3, further comprising a re-chargeable electric battery for providing power to said motors.

5. (Previously Presented) The motorized towing device according to claim 1, wherein at least a portion of said controller is mounted on said steering column.

6. (Previously Presented) The motorized towing device according to claim 5, wherein said controller includes pressure sensitive switches for distributing power to said motor in response to the magnitude of force applied to said steering column.

7. (Previously Presented) The motorized towing device according to claim 1, in combination with said associated object.

8. (Previously Presented) The motorized towing device according to claim 1, wherein said associated object comprises a wagon or wheeled cart.

9. (Previously Presented) The motorized towing device according to claim 1, further comprising a secondary attachment mechanism for releasable securing said steering column to said associated object.

10. (Previously Presented) The motorized towing device according to claim 4, wherein said controller includes switches for varying the amount of electrical energy distributed from said battery to said motors.

11. (Previously Presented) The motorized towing device according to claim 10, wherein said controller comprises a microprocessor that controls the operation of said motors and which varies the speed and direction of rotation of each motor independent from the other to alter the forward and rearward direction and speed of movement of said device over a surface.

12. (Previously Presented) The motorized towing device according to claim 10, wherein said switches generate signals corresponding to force applied to said steering column during operation of said device, the signals being received by said controller for controlling the speed and direction of rotation of said motors.

13. (Currently Amended) The motorized towing device according to claim 1, wherein said quick release attachment mechanism comprises at least one ~~yokes~~one yoke releasably securable about an exterior of said chassis.

14. (Currently Amended) The motorized towing device according to claim 13, wherein said ~~yokes comprise~~yoke comprises a stationary portion, a rotating portion and a closure mechanism for securing said upper portion to said rotation portion while permitting rotational movement of said yokes relative to said chassis.

15. (Previously Presented) The motorized towing device according to claim 14, wherein said closure mechanism comprises at least one of a magnetic, electromagnetic and a mechanical clamp.

16. (Previously Presented) The motorized towing device according to claim 11, wherein in response to signals received from said switches, said microprocessor operates said motors as dynamic brakes to slow movement of said device.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Canceled)

19. (Canceled)

20. (Previously Presented) In combination, a motorized towing device and a wheeled cart, said motorized towing device comprising:

a chassis housing a pair of reversible variable speed direct current electric motors, each of said motors connected to an axle upon which is mounted a wheel;

a battery to provide power to said motors; a microprocessor control;

a steering column connected to said chassis; and,

one or more switches generating signals in response to force applied to said steering column by an operator, said signals received by said microprocessor control and causing said microprocessor control to operate said motors to rotate said wheels in a manner so as to move said chassis at a speed and in the general direction of the movement of said operator; and, a quick release attachment mechanism to releasably secure said wheeled cart to said chassis, said quick release attachment mechanism comprising one or more yokes connected to said wheeled cart and releasably receivable about said chassis, said one or more yokes including a stationary portion, a rotating portion, and a clamp, wherein the securement of said one or more yokes about said chassis through activation of said clamp releasably secures said wheeled cart to said chassis permitting said chassis to tow or move said cart across a surface while permitting rotational movement of said one or more yokes relative to said chassis.